

on time, as the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY) has conceded. There are other problems.

One of the problems, and I do not know that anybody is going to like to hear this especially on my side of the aisle, one of the problems is this tremendous desire to solve legislative problems that the authorizing committees either cannot or will not solve. They are put onto appropriations bills, and they ask us to solve them because appropriations bills have to pass, Mr. Speaker. They are the only bills here really that have to pass. So we become a magnet for all of those issues that authorizers cannot solve, and we try to do the best we can. I think we are on the verge of having completed this job for this year.

I do not think it does any good to blame anybody. In fact, I would like to say that the chairman of the Appropriations Committee in the Senate is an outstanding leader, a strong, dynamic leader, who is very knowledgeable and understands the process totally. He understands the issues as well as anybody that I know. But he has a very difficult situation in the Senate, and he has done the best job that he could.

Anyway, Mr. Speaker, we are closing in on this. We are really prepared. We have been prepared for 3 weeks to file the Transportation and Treasury appropriations bill. We have been prepared for a week to file the conference report on the Foreign Operations appropriations bill. And they can be completed in a very short period of time.

The other remaining issue would be the omnibus bill that includes five appropriations bills that have not been completed in conference. And we are very close to having that completed. We are very close to being able to file that bill and vote on it. As a matter of fact, we had hoped that we would file it tonight. A lot of changes happened during the day. And every time we make a change, it takes a little extra time. So we probably will not file that bill tonight unless the House remains in session very late.

Anyway, I would agree that the process has not worked the best, but I would also say that I compliment the Members of House and especially the members of the Committee on Appropriations in the House and the staff that worked so diligently with us. We did our job. We have done our job, and we are attempting to pursue the completion of the whole process.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 4 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Florida has indicated, the Commerce-Justice bill could very easily have been brought back to this floor separately and passed separately. The Transportation bill could very easily have been brought back to the floor and passed separately. The Foreign Operations bill could very easily have been brought

back to the bill floor and passed separately. The Agriculture the same and the VA-HUD bill the same.

The problem is, as the gentleman indicated, that there are many other issues that are being drug into the appropriations process. And we also see the situation complicated by the fact that the House Republican leadership, despite votes to the contrary on a number of issues, is insisting on seeing an outcome on a number of these issues which is at variance with the expressed wishes of the Members of the House. And I think therein lies the reason for the delay and delay and delay.

I think the problem that we have, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Florida, my good friend, indicated that the committee product is serving as a magnet for other authorizations. I think a better metaphor would be that it is looking more and more like a garbage truck. And the problem we have is that this bill has not been allowed to proceed because I think the House leadership is still trying to determine what bags of garbage have to be tossed down to the truck before the truck is driven through here in the dead of night.

□ 2000

So that is the choice that we face, Mr. Speaker. It is not a pretty sight, and the outcome is not going to be very good. But there is not much we in the minority can do to affect either the scheduling or to affect how much garbage is tossed on the truck before it is run through the Capitol. I just hope the smell is not too bad before it is over.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on the resolution.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask for a "yes" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). All time for debate as expired.

The joint resolution is considered read for amendment.

Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, on that, I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

# REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF JOINT RESOLUTION APPOINTING DAY FOR CONVENING OF SECOND SESSION OF 108TH CONGRESS

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-398) on the resolution (H. Res. 464) providing for consideration of a joint resolution appointing the day for the convening of the second session of the One Hundred Eighth Congress, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

## REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS

Mr. DREIER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-399) on the resolution (H. Res. 465) waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 2050

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) at 8 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.

## COMMUNICATION FROM HON. NANCY PELOSI, DEMOCRATIC LEADER.

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from NANCY PELOSI, Democratic Leader:

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
OFFICE OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER,  
Washington, DC, November 13, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 7(b)(1) of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (P.L. 108-79), I hereby appoint Ms. Brenda V. Smith of the District of Columbia and Ms. Jamie Fellner, Esq. of New York, to the National Prison Rape Reduction Commission.

Best regards,

NANCY PELOSI.

## FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the vote on passage